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**BILL NO.:** House Bill 1442 – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Definition, Application, and Workgroup - Modifications

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**HEARING DATE:** March 10, 2026 (ENT)

**SPONSOR:** Delegates J. Long, Charkoudian, and Ivey

**POSITION:** Favorable

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The Office of People’s Counsel (OPC) respectfully offers the following comments in support of House Bill 1442, Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Definition, Application, and Workgroup - Modifications. HB 1442 would expand the pilot for community choice aggregation to all jurisdictions in the state.

HB 1442 expands a pilot community aggregation program called Community Choice Energy (CCE) that is already permitted for Montgomery County. The CCE concept has great potential to further both the consumer and environmental interests of residential customers in Maryland. The aggregation of customers in CCE aligns with OPC’s goals of promoting the interests of residential customers. CCEs can advance an industry structure that facilitates a diversity of energy products, services, and providers, all produced cost effectively.

CCEs can help spur innovation, creating consumer and environmental benefits. Innovative distributed technologies and services such as local and rooftop solar, energy efficiency, microgrids, energy storage, and demand aggregators can promote more

efficient energy infrastructure and benefit customers. These innovations are—by their very nature—local. Local customer aggregation supports local accountability and empowers residential customers while creating possibilities for new services, jobs, and customer savings.

CCEs also promote better performance through competition. Community aggregation enables local governmental entities to competitively procure energy products and services for their citizens. Community aggregation also can establish benchmarks that the Public Service Commission can use to more effectively regulate the performance of Maryland utilities. Stated otherwise, successful community aggregation should place competitive pressure on Maryland energy companies to operate cost effectively and to innovate.

HB 1442's expansion of the CCE program is a critical step forward in Maryland's progress toward building an infrastructure that is consistent with residential customer interest and a cost-effective and environmentally friendly energy future.

**Recommendation:** OPC requests a favorable Committee report on HB 1442.